

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

1935

ALEXANDER URQUHART M.A., M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SUNBURY-ON-THAMES

LIST OF MEMBERS—1935

Chairman—COUNCILLOR R. HARRISON.

Vice-Chairman—COUNCILLOR L. B. HIRST.

SUNBURY WARD

H. CLARKSON, Kenwyn, Rooksmead Road, Sunbury.
C. E. DAVIES, Manor Farm, Green Street, Sunbury.
W. HALL, 9 Harfield Road, Sunbury.
Mrs. B. C. LANGBRIDGE, Weir View, Thames Street, Sunbury
G. H. L. MASON, 47 The Avenue, Sunbury.

SUNBURY COMMON WARD

L. H. BROWN, Caradoc, The Avenue, Sunbury Common.
F. H. COLE, 21 Darby Crescent, Sunbury.
W. W. HARRIS, 51 Windmill Road, Sunbury Common.
MAJOR J. L. KENNY, M.B.E., Froyle, The Avenue, Sunbury.

ASHFORD AND HALLIFORD WARD

C. W. BEARD, Westleigh, Staines Road, Ashford Common.
L. B. HIRST, Frith Grange. Upper Halliford.
J. H. TICKNER, The Goat Inn, Upper Halliford.

SHEPPERTON WARD

R. HARRISON, Rest-a-wyle, Ash Road, Shepperton.
Mrs. G. HAYES-JONES, Hedge Corner, Watersplash Road,
Shepperton.
N. H. ROMANES, The Range, Shepperton.
H. F. R. STURGE, The Grove, Shepperton.
S. A. TURPIN, The Anchor Hotel, Shepperton.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1935.

Chairman : COUNCILLOR N. H. ROMANES.

Vice Chairman : COUNCILLOR F. H. COLE.

Councillors :

Mrs. B. C. Langbridge	C. E. Davies
L. B. Hirst	W. W. Harris
S. A. Turpin	Mrs. G. Hayes-Jones

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1935.

(a) *Medical Officer of Health (part time)* :

ALEXANDER URQUHART, M.A., M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(b) *Sanitary Inspector (whole time)* :

T. J. MOORE, Cert. R.S.I., Cert. Insp. of Meat and Other Foods,
Cert. R.S.I., Smoke Inspector. Special Diploma R.S.I.
for Sanitary Science applied to buildings and public
works. Cert. Inst. San. Engrs., London.

Clerk : Mrs. O. W. LUKYN, A.I.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

Sunbury-on-Thames Urban District Council

1935

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Sunbury-on-Thames.*

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for 1935, on the Sanitary Circumstances, the Sanitary Administration, and the Vital Statistics of the District, in accordance with the requirements and instructions of the Minister of Health.

The District comprises the Parishes of Sunbury, Shepperton, and Littleton, and part of the Parish of Ashford known as Ashford Common; and is divided into the following wards, viz.—

Sunbury	...	...	...	...	5 members
Sunbury Common	...	...	...	...	4 members
Shepperton	...	...	...	...	4 members
Ashford and Halliford	...	...	...	...	3 members

Statistics and Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	5,695
Population (mid year 1935)	15,050
(showing an increase of 531 on the previous year).	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1935)	4,890
Rateable Value (1934/35)	£160,983
Sum represented by a penny rate	£614
(£603 in 1934)	

The general contour of the District is flat, the ground water is fairly high and the subsoil is mostly gravel and sand with bands of clay intervening. The nature of the subsoil is a material factor in creating healthy conditions, due to good drainage by filtration.

Within the District is the large "Queen Mary Reservoir" which has a circumference of $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles at the top, is 38 feet deep and comprises 723 acres covered by water.

A great deal of building development is taking place in the District and many new houses have been and are being erected by the Council and by private enterprise. The population is rapidly increasing in consequence. New roads have been made, and Town Planning improvements are carried out, which add to the natural amenities, while maintaining the rural and residential character of the District.

The open air Swimming Bath which has been constructed in Sunbury by the Council, on land near the river Thames, is proving a great boon and attraction to the surrounding District.

The following schedule shows the various Recreation Grounds and Open Spaces owned by the Council :—

Cedars Recreation Ground	...	11 acres		
Rivermead Island	...	2 acres	3 roods	8 poles
Old Bathing Field	...	2 acres	1 rood	
King's Lawn	...			16 poles
Church Green and Flower Pot Green			1 rood	8 poles
Brickle Bridge	...			29 poles
Upper Halliford Green	...		3 roods	16 poles
Shepperton Recreation Ground	...	4 acres	0 roods	20 poles
Windmill Common	...	4 acres	1 rood	17 poles
Lower Halliford Green	...	4 acres	1 rood	12 poles
Littleton Recreation Ground	...	4 acres		

These public spaces with their facilities for sport and recreation, contribute to the high standard of health in the District.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	251 (252)	138 (135)	113 (117)
Illegitimate	9 (11)	4 (3)	5 (8)
	<hr/> 260 (263) <hr/>	<hr/> 142 (138) <hr/>	<hr/> 118 (125) <hr/>

(Figures in brackets are for the previous year)

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	17.27 (18.16)
England and Wales	14.7 (14.8)

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Males	Females
7 (15)	3 (5)	4 (8) (1 illegitimate)
Rate per 1000 (live and stillbirths) equal 17.74		

DEATHS

Total	Males	Females
129 (164)	70 (75)	59 (89)

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	8.57 (11.52)
England and Wales	11.7 (11.8)

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES Nil (1)

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age

Deaths under 1 year ...	5 (14)
All infants per 1000 live births ...	29.23 (53.23)
Legitimate infants per 1000 live births ...	29.23 (51.58)
Illegitimate infants per 1000 live births ...	Nil (90.9)
Deaths from measles (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Chief Causes of Death in 1935

The chief causes of death (all ages) in 1935 were as follows :

		Males	Females	Total	In 1934
Heart Disease	...	26	15	41	38
Cancer	...	9	10	19	26

Of the deaths registered in the District in 1935, 31 were of persons between 60 and 70 years of age (15 males, 16 females); 34 were of persons between 70 and 80 years of age (22 male, 12 females); 16 were of persons between 80 and 90 years of age (5 males, 11 females) ; and 4 persons were over 90 (3 males, 1 female).

Vital Statistics for past Six Years

	Birth Rate per 1000 population	Death Rate per 1000 population	Infant Mortality Death Rate per 1000 live births (under 1 year)
1930	19.6	7.9	36.9
1931	19.2	11.02	19.4
1932	18.78	12.13	97.2
1933	14.34	12.57	42.45
1934	18.16	11.32	53.23
1935	17.27	8.57	29.23

Other Statistics for the past Six Years

	Population	No of Inhabited Houses	Rateable Value	Sum Represented by a 1d. rate
1930	12,989	3,314	£138,776	£537
1931	13,330	3,454	£139,269	£550
1932	13,679	3,537	£147,006	£569
1933	14,080	4,060	£150,592	£573
1934	14,519	4,298	£161,200	£603
1935	15,050	4,890	£160,983	£614

Deaths in 1935, classified by Ages and Causes.

DISEASE.	All Ages	Years											Over 65
		Under 1 y'r	1—2	3—5	6—10	11—15	16—20	21—25	26—35	36—45	46—55	56—65	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Encephalitis lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	3	—	—
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Syphilis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease ...	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	13
Diabetes ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage &c. ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Heart Disease ...	41	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	7	26
Aneurysm ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other circulatory diseases ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Bronchitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Other respiratory diseases ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peptic Ulcer ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea &c. (Under 2 years)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of Liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital debility, premature Births, malformations, &c.	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Senility ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Violence ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	—
Other defined diseases ...	11	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	129	5	1	3	—	1	4	2	2	7	17	21	66

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL DEATH-RATES AND CASE- RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1935.

(England and Wales, London, 121 Great Towns and 140 Smaller Towns)

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	England and Wales	121 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	140 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County
	Rates per 1,000 Population			
Births:-				
Live	14.7	14.8	14.8	13.3
Still	0.62	0.68	0.64	0.52
Deaths:-				
All Causes	11.7	11.8	11.2	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04
Diphtheria	0.08	0.09	0.07	0.06
Influenza	0.18	0.16	0.17	0.11
Voilence	0.52	0.45	0.41	0.51
Notifications:-				
Small-pox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2.96	3.19	2.75	2.64
Diphtheria	1.60	1.96	1.34	2.25
Enteric Fever	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.05
Erysipelas	0.42	0.48	0.37	0.45
Pneumonia	1.15	1.36	0.98	0.89
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths under 1 year of age	57	62	55	58
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.7	7.9	3.8	11.2
Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Sepsis	1.68	} Not available		
Others	2.42			
Total	4.10			
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and still)			
Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Sepsis	1.61	} Not available		
Others	2.32			
Total	3.93			
Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever	3.60	4.55	2.76	4.52
Puerperal Pyrexia	9.44	11.14	8.25	11.89

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

Water, milk, foodstuffs, sputa, swabs, etc. requiring laboratory examination are sent to the Clinical Research Association, London.

During the year 1935 the following specimens were dealt with :—

		<i>Total</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
Swabs for diphtheria	...	55	8	47
Sputum for Tuberculosis	...	9	3	6

(b) Ambulance Facilities

1. *For Infectious Cases.* Patients are removed in the ambulance provided by the Isolation Hospital from their homes to the hospital.

2. *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.* The Council provide a motor ambulance for the conveyance of non-infectious sick, and cases of accident. During the year the ambulance was called out in connection with 31 accidents and 88 cases of illness.

The Ambulance Service is satisfactory and efficient.

(c) Nursing in the Home

1. *General.* The Sunbury, Halliford and District Nursing Association and the Shepperton and Littleton District Nursing Association maintain, by voluntary subscriptions, two district nurses. Their services are much appreciated and in continual demand.

2. *Infectious Disease.* The home nursing of infectious disease is not undertaken by the Local Authority.

Midwives, 1935

During the year 7 midwives practised within the area, as follows :—

BLAKE, Ada M., 44, Manor Lane, Sunbury.

BRISTOW, Marian, 18, Green Lane, Sunbury.

FERON, Edith M., 59, Green Street, Sunbury.

GORE, Margaret A., 27, Acacia Avenue, Shepperton.

GREENO, Jane L., Sherbourne, Crescent Road, Shepperton.

SAUNDERS, Edith G. P., Mansard, Charlton Road,
Shepperton.

PHELPS, Gladys B., Sherbourne, Crescent Road,
Shepperton.

No midwives are employed or subsidised by the Council.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

There are Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics at Sunbury, Upper Halliford, Ashford Common and Shepperton; and School Clinics. These are under the control of the Middlesex County Council.

The District has no Institution for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children. Any such cases are admitted into the Public Assistance Institution at Stanwell.

Cases of Venereal Disease receive treatment at Richmond Hospital or the General Hospitals in London.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary

The local hospitals available are Hampton Cottage Hospital, Staines Cottage Hospital, Walton Cottage Hospital, the West Middlesex Hospital and the Staines Union Infirmary.

A certain number of cases are also received at Richmond, Weybridge, Windsor or at any of the London Hospitals.

By arrangement with the County Medical Officer cases of small pox are sent to the County Hospital at South Mimms or elsewhere.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are sent to the Isolation Hospital Stanwell, where the accommodation is sufficient under present conditions.

Under the County Council's scheme for the treatment of tuberculosis, 570 beds are reserved for the institutional treatment of residents in the County of Middlesex, viz.,

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Middlesex County Council Sanatorium, Harefield, has 129 beds for male patients, 129 for females and 64 for children.

Clare Hall, South Mimms, has 120 male and 66 female beds.

Middlesex County Council Hospital, Twickenham Road, Isleworth, has 40 male beds.

Middlesex County Council Dispensary, Bell Road, Hounslow, has 9 male and 7 female beds.

Surgical Tuberculosis

The County Council has 6 beds for children reserved for its use at the Victoria Home, Margate.

In other cases of a non-pulmonary nature, application for admission is made to one or other of the existing institutions approved by the Ministry of Health for the treatment of tuberculosis.

(f) Legislation in Force

<i>Adoptive Acts.</i>	<i>Date of Adoption.</i>
Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889	... 1-7-1895
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	... 1-7-1895
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5.	... 1-8-1895
The Private Street Works Act, 1892	... 1-8-1895
Public Health Acts (Amendment) 1907 certain sections in parts 2, 3, 4 and 10.	... 26-5-1924
Public Health Act, 1925 certain sections in parts 2, 4 and 5	... 16-8-1926

Bath and Wash-houses Acts, 1846-1899	...	13-5-1929
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Section 1	...	7-3-1934
<i>Bye-laws and Regulations.</i>		
House Drainage Regulations	...	6-4-1898
Cemetery Regulations	...	21-7-1900
Confirming Order of L.G.B. of Notification of Births Act, 1907	...	1915
Bye-laws as to Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces		2-5-1921
Bye-laws as to New Streets and Buildings	...	21-1-1924
Bye-laws as to Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation	...	20-3-1924
Confirming Order of Ministry of Health under Section 7, Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, including Chicken Pox	...	11-11-1924
Bye-laws for the Regulations of Offensive Trades		21-7-1925
Bye-laws as to New Buildings	...	16-9-1926
Bye-laws as to Cesspools	(Allowed)	25-1-1933

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) Water

The water supply of the area is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. Approximately 90% of the dwelling houses in the District are supplied from the mains of the various water companies.

The following are the water companies serving the area :—

- (a) The Metropolitan Water Board supplies Sunbury, Sunbury Common, Upper Halliford and Charlton.
- (b) The West Surrey Water Company supplies Shepperton and Littleton.
- (c) The South West Suburban Water Company supplies Ashford Common.

There are several groups of cottage property and some private houses in the District which are dependent on tubes or shallow wells. When complaints are received, the water from these is tested. If the water is found not of good quality, or unfit for drinking through contamination, other sources of supply are found, or attachment to the main advised where possible. About fifty such houses were attached during 1935.

Complaints are from time to time received of the prevalence of gna's and flies in connection with the Queen Mary Reservoir, Littleton.

This is kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector and myself and means have been suggested to mitigate the nuisance when it arises. In their own interests the Metropolitan Water Board take all steps necessary to deal with this matter, which is only of a temporary nature, and can be kept under by means of spraying the water with innocuous oils, and the banks with chemical solutions.

Similar conditions exist in certain disused gravel pits, ponds, etc., in the District, and means are taken to deal with these by spraying, etc.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage.

At present main drainage and sewerage is confined to Sunbury and Sunbury Common. As the building of houses proceeds and new streets are opened out, the main drains are extended to them.

In the rest of the District there is no main drainage but cesspools, privies and pail closets are in use.

In the whole area approximately 60% of the houses are provided with water closets, and it is estimated that about 50% of the drainage of dwelling houses is connected to the Council's sewers.

The treatment of sewage is carried out on the Broad Irrigation principle at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, which are situate in the District of Charlton, in Sunbury Parish. The works are just sufficient for present needs, until Main Drainage is in operation.

In the future the West Middlesex Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme will effectively deal with the sewerage and

drainage difficulties in the District. The works are now proceeding and nearing completion.

During the year, Clifton House, 1 to 10 Clifton Villas and Virginia Cottages, (Ashford Common) were connected to the Main Sewer.

2. Rivers and Streams

The rivers and streams in the District are kept under frequent observation. A watercourse in Charlton was piped and filled in.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation

In the whole area approximately 60% of the houses are provided with water closets. Of the remainder, various types of privies, pail and earth closets are in use. 2 privies and 4 pail closets were abolished during the year and replaced by water closets.

(ii) Public Cleansing

In all parts of the District there is a weekly collection of refuse by motor covered vehicles.

The cleansing of earth closets at 19 premises in the Ashford Common district is carried out by Contractors on behalf of the Council. In other parts of the area, the cleansing is carried out by the occupiers of the premises.

All refuse from the Dust Collecting Vehicles is efficiently disposed of by incineration at the Council's Destructor Works on the Sewage Disposal Ground.

The excreta from pail closets, privies, etc., is disposed of by burial, or by spreading on agricultural land.

Cesspools are cleansed by a Motor Cesspool Exhauster and conveyed to the Sewage Disposal Works.

The West Middlesex Sewerage Scheme when it comes into use will include the greater part of the unsewered area of the District.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

A report dealing with :—

- (a) The nature and number of inspections ;
- (b) The number of notices served ;
- (c) The result of the services of such notices

will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector which is at the end of this report.

(iv) Smoke Abatement

No Statutory action has been taken during the year with regard to abatement of nuisances arising from smoke in this District. Complaints were received respecting the emission of black smoke from the chimneys of steam navvies in use at gravel pits, but it was not necessary to take any special action.

(v) Public Mortuaries

The number of bodies received into the Mortuaries was as follows :—

Inquest only	...	...	...	4
Post Mortem only	...	...	...	9
				<hr/>
				13
				<hr/>

4. Schools

The sanitary condition and water supply of the public elementary schools is satisfactory. Some of the buildings lack the advantages of those more modern. These premises are visited periodically by the Sanitary Inspector.

The health of the scholars is closely observed by the teachers, and cases of illness, poor health, defective vision or hearing, etc., are referred to the School Medical Officers.

The spread of infectious diseases is kept under control by exclusion of contacts and cases of doubtful infection. The training and experience of senior teachers in recognising cases of infection is invaluable in limiting the spread of infectious disease among school children.

HOUSING

The problem of Housing is receiving increasing attention by the Council. There continues to be a great improvement in Housing conditions generally.

Great progress was made toward the completion of the Council's 5 year programme. 41 dilapidated cottages were demolished under Clearance Orders and from these 38 families moved into new sanitary dwellings on the Green Leas Estate. In addition, the Council made Clearance Orders, (since confirmed) in respect of 14 other houses.

List of Council Houses

Acacia Avenue	...	30
Allen Road	...	26
Baldwins Cottages	...	10
Beards Road	...	42
Cavendish Road	...	100
Charlton Lane	...	12
Charlton Road	...	24
Green Leas	...	38
Halliford Close	...	8
Laytons Lane	...	26
Manor Lane	...	12
Nursery Road	...	19
Nursery Terrace	...	6
Stanley Cottages	...	16
Sutherland Avenue	...	47
Upper Halliford	...	2
Windmill Terrace	...	22
Windmill Road	...	6
The Cottage, Green Way	...	1

447

Housing Statistics

A.	Number of new houses erected during the year—				
(a)	Total	...	...	...	187
(b)	(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	38
	(ii) By private enterprise	...	...	...	149
B.	Number of dwelling-houses owned by the Local Authority				447
1.	Housing Act, 1919	...	...	...	66
2.	Housing Act, 1923	...	...	...	182
3.	Housing Act, 1924	...	...	...	90
4.	Housing Act, 1925 (Self supporting)	...	...	...	60
5.	Housing Act, 1930	...	...	...	46
6.	Other houses	...	...	...	3

The following information is supplied at the request of the Ministry of Health :—

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—</i>				
(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	360
	(b)	Number of inspections (including re-inspections) made for the purpose	...	...	1257
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) (above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	39
	(b)	Number of inspections (including re-inspections) made for the purpose	...	...	208
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation				10
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation				197

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	198
--	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
---	---

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
---	--

(a) By owners	4
----------------------	---

(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	17
---	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
---	--

(a) By owners	17
----------------------	----

(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
---	-----

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil
---	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	Nil
--	-----

D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
---	-----

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or rooms having been rendered fit	Nil
---	-----

Factories and Workshops

All the factories and workshops in the district have been inspected during the year and the various sanitary defects remedied in consequence.

The following tables are on the lines of those issued by the Home Office, so far as they affect this district, showing particulars of inspections, etc.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector :

PREMISES. (1)	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	35	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	65	3	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	30	—	—
TOTAL	130	4	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, & WORKPLACES

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF			Number of off- ences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (2)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisance under the Public Health Acts :*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	5	5	—	—
Want of Ventilation ...				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary } insufficient	1	—		
accommo- } unsuitable	3	3		
dation } or defective				
} not separate				
} for sexes ...				
TOTAL	9	8	Nil	Nil

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises

SECTION 108.

No action was taken under this Section.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

Farms and Dairies where milk is supplied and sold are periodically inspected in regard to cleanliness and sanitary conditions. No outbreak of infectious disease attributable to milk occurred during the year, and no action had to be taken under the Milk & Dairies Order 1926 and the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1923.

The supply of a clean safe milk is one of the most serious food problems of the present day. Many diseases may be spread through infected milk, but the Milk Trade generally is giving special scientific attention in the production of a cleaner milk, and the manner of vending is still improving.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The inspection of meat is mainly controlled by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. The carcasses of all animals slaughtered in the District are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and generally are of a good quality. A large proportion of the meat consumed in the District is bought at the London Markets. A detailed list of inspections appears in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Frequent visits were made to butchers' and other shops where food is prepared or exposed for sale and a certain quantity of meat and other food was condemned.

(c) SALE OF FOODS & DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT.

I am indebted to Mr. Robinson, Chief Officer of the Public Control Department of the Middlesex County Council for the following report as to samples purchased in this area during 1935.

<i>Article.</i>				<i>Taken.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>
Milk	...	...	...	32	—
Butter	...	...	...	2	—
Gin	...	...	...	1	—
Minced Beef	...	...	...	1	—
Whisky	...	...	...	1	—
				—	—
				37	—
				—	—

Section F.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During 1935 there were only 31 Notifications of Infectious Disease as against 138 the previous year.

Diphtheria. There were 12 cases (62 in 1934) and 10 of these were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths.

The cases occurred as follows in the Wards :—

Sunbury 3, Sunbury Common 3, Ashford and Halliford 5, Shepperton 1.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Public Health Department for use by local medical practitioners.

Scarlet Fever. There were 6 cases as against 44 last year (1934). All were removed to hospital.

Sunbury Ward 0, Sunbury Common 3, Ashford and Halliford 2 and Shepperton 1.

Puerperal Fever. Two cases notified, both admitted to hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia. Four cases notified. All sent to hospital.

Pneumonia. No cases notified.

Erysipelas. Two cases notified. Treated at home.

Typhoid Fever. One case notified. Patient only residing temporarily in the District. Said to be a miner from Wales.

Chickenpox. Only 4 cases were notified. All children under 10. Several cases were reported by Head Teachers of schools.

Non-Notifiable Diseases

Of the Non-notifiable diseases there were several cases of measles notified from the Schools and a few cases of Whooping Cough, Conjunctivitis and Impetigo.

Cancer. During 1935 there were 19 deaths from cancer in its various forms. The ages varied from 42 to 88. (In 1934 there were 26 deaths).

Prevalence of Cancer in relation to Age, Sex and Organs Deaths in 1935

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organ</i>
67	M	Oesophagus
60	F	Maxilla
42	F	Liver
88	M	Rectum
50	F	Breast
75	F	Rectum
69	F	Rectum

75	M	Stomach
74	M	Lungs
70	M	Oesophagus
63	M	Prostate
57	F	Breast
69	F	Ventriculum
83	F	Stomach
73	F	Abdomen and Uterus
72	M	Spine and Stomach
65	F	Breast and Spine
70	F	Breast and Spine
75	M	Prostate and Bladder

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

It was not necessary for any action to be taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes during the past year.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS PULMONARY.

11 new cases were notified during 1935, 6 by medical practitioners and 5 from hospitals and sanatoria.

There were 6 deaths (all pulmonary), 3 males and 3 females.

OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Only one case was notified during the year. There were no deaths.

Cases of tuberculosis are efficiently notified in the area and it has not been found necessary to take proceedings in any case of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

Tubercular disease is undoubtedly diminishing, due to healthier hygienic conditions, and the better control of food, especially milk. The strict and vigilant inspection of meat for human consumption, and the rejection of carcasses affected by tubercle help to safeguard the public health; and the purveying of milk properly sterilised and bottled has also helped materially to diminish the risk of development of tubercular glands in children, a condition which was formerly much more prevalent, and a cause of bad health.

During the year no action was required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The premises where death has occurred from Tuberculosis, or from which the patient has been sent to a Sanatorium, or otherwise arranged for, are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector. In the cases of patients treated at home, instruction is given as to the proper use of disinfectants, which are supplied by the Council.

Cases of Tuberculosis, after being notified to the Medical Officer of Health, are referred to the Tuberculosis Medical Officers appointed by the County Council who arrange for the appropriate treatment in each case. Suitable cases are sent to Sanatoria, or to special Hospitals for the treatment of Tubercular diseases.

There are Dispensaries for the treatment of Tuberculosis at Staines, Hounslow and Twickenham. Cases suitable for Sanatorium treatment are sent to Clare Hall, Harefield, or elsewhere.

Tuberculosis, 1935

AGE PERIODS. YEARS	NEW CASES.				DEATHS ALL CASES.			
	Pul.		Non-Pul.		Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
11—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
21—25	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
36—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46—55	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
56—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	7	—	1	3	3	—	—

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) During the Year 1935

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	6	6	Nil
Diphtheria	12	10	Nil
Puerperal Fever	2	2	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	Nil
Erysipelas	2	—	Nil
Enteric Fever	1	—	—
Chickenpox	4	—	—

Notifiable Diseases During 1935

	Under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs.	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	65 & over	All ages	D'ths	Admit. Hos.
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	—	5	4	—	1	—	1	—	12	—	10
Chichenpox	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
Puerperal Pryexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	—	4
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2

Infectious Diseases Notified, 1935

	Scartet Fever	Diphtheria	Chickenpox	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Puerperal Fever	Months Totals
January	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	5
February	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	5
March	1	3	2	—	—	1	—	7
April	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
May	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
June	—	4	—	1	—	2	1	8
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
October	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	5
November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
TOTALS	6	12	4	1	2	4	2	31

GENERAL REPORT OF THE AREA

In concluding my report, I wish to call attention to one or two matters of interest.

The Area continues to be a very healthy one and many people live to a good old age. The death rate is below the average. The rate for 1935 (8.57 per 1000) is the lowest for five years and considerably below the rate for England and Wales (11.8). The Birth rate (17.27) is slightly below that of the previous year. The population of the District is increasing rapidly owing to the great increase in house building that is taking place.

The amount of Infectious Disease during 1935 was extremely low. The rate was the lowest for several years. There were no epidemics of diphtheria or scarlet fever. The hygienic conditions of the District are steadily improving and the water supply is better in the case of small groups of houses which were formerly dependant on pump and wells. Drainage has been improved and where possible, cesspools are being done away with and connection made with Main Drains.

The West Middlesex Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, and the Councils' local sewerage schemes for the unsewered parts of the Area, Ashford Common, Charlton and Halliford, and Shepperton will be a great boon to the District and should improve the health and sanitary conditions, diminish the risk of water contamination of pumps, etc., by cesspools, and the nuisance caused in places by their existence. The amenities and residential attraction of the District will be increased.

Main Drainage has been laid in Ashford Common, Sunbury Common, Charlton, Upper Halliford, Shepperton Green and a considerable part of Shepperton and will be completed in 1936.

The long felt need of main drainage for the quickly growing population in the District will now be effectually met by the West Middlesex Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, and the local schemes planned and being carried out by the Drainage

Committee and the Engineer.

Main Drainage has become an absolute necessity in a District which is yearly becoming more urban and less rural.

While it is hoped that, as far as possible, all houses will make connection with the main drains, there will still be groups of houses where cesspools are necessary, and for these means of collection and disposal will be arranged.

Housing conditions continue to improve as a result of the policy of the Council. Under the Housing Act, 1930, special attention has been given to "Slum Clearance," the reconditioning of dilapidated properties and the acquisition of suitable land for building purposes.

Further "Slum Clearance" action has been taken by the Council in the District in accordance with the five-year-plan. In Ashford Common, Upper Halliford and Shepperton several groups of houses are scheduled under "Slum Clearance" and steps are being taken for the removal of caravans, etc., from Winch's Field, Shepperton. There are also many "Individual Unfit" houses which are under review for demolition or reconditioning, and schemes to deal with re-housing and overcrowding are under consideration.

Overcrowding is also receiving attention under the Housing Act, 1935.

The demand for Council houses still continues great and there is a considerable waiting list. Careful selection is made of tenants so that as little damage as possible is done to Council property. But cases arise where a poorer class of tenant has been given a Council house out of consideration of their poverty and condition, and the result has been that dirty habits have not been changed, and the rent is in arrears. This is a problem that is constantly facing the Council. In the majority of cases, however, the improved housing condition has improved the standard of living as far as present economic conditions allow. There is still a shortage of houses for the working classes at a low rent, and the Council are dealing with this matter.

The Public Swimming Bath is proving a great attraction to the neighbourhood. People are from time to time concerned about the sanitation and the risk of any possible infection from the water in the Swimming Bath. The water is changed twice weekly. In hot weather, however, and during the summer months, it would be advisable to change the water more frequently.

A new cascade to facilitate the aeration of water was installed and other means for improving the conditions are being considered.

There is no risk of infection from contact with the water, provided that no person with any skin disease, or suffering from an infectious complaint, is allowed to make use of the bath. The bath attendant should be on the lookout for such cases. There have been to my knowledge no cases of actual infection arising from the use of the Swimming Bath, but the above precautions are necessary in the interests of the public, and would encourage the more frequent use of the Swimming Bath, especially in a period of drought and water shortage. The cleaner the water, the greater the attraction; and the art of swimming, in a riverside population, is encouraged.

During the year 1935 Public Inquiries were held by the Ministry of Health in regard to "Gravel Pits."

There has recently been a notable increase in the number of these pits. Strong opposition by the Council and by inhabitants in the District was made to their establishment on the grounds that they were detrimental and prejudicial to the amenities of a rapidly growing residential area, and because they were unsightly, a menace to good health conditions, and liable to cause nuisance as a breeding ground for flies and noxious insects, vermin, &c.

The appeals against them were not altogether successful, largely for the reason that these gravel pits afforded useful material for building and industrial purposes.

There is no doubt however that the presence of so many

gravel pits in the District has interfered considerably with the best development of an otherwise attractive area for residential purposes.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Officials and Staff of the Council, in the different departments, for their cordial assistance in various ways, and especially to Mr. T. J. Moore, the Sanitary Inspector, for the thorough and conscientious way in which he carries out all his duties. In all departments of his work, which increases greatly from year to year, he has been efficient and painstaking.

I also wish to express my thanks to Mrs. O. Lukyn for her extremely good work as clerk in the Public Health Department. The careful and accurate manner in which all records are kept, her business capacity and knowledge of procedure in dealing with persons applying for information on various matters, have been invaluable. In the summary and tabulation of statistics and information required for this report, and for her clerical assistance and help generally. I owe her my thanks and appreciation.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council, I also wish to record my thanks for their consideration and support in all matters affecting the Public Health of the District.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. URQUHART,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the SANITARY INSPECTOR for the year 1935



To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District
Council of Sunbury-on-Thames.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my sixth annual report dealing with the work carried out during the year 1935, in connection with the administration of the various statutes and byelaws relating to Public Health in force within the district.

The total number of inspections and visits made during the year was 2646 as compared with 2796 during the year 1934.

On 611 premises sanitary defects to the number of 1788 were discovered. Arising out of these defects, it was found necessary to serve 309 "preliminary" and 24 statutory notices. At the end of the year 1473 of the nuisances or defects had been abated, the work of remedying 139 was in hand, and 176 were outstanding.

The customary systematic inspection of the district has been maintained and all insanitary conditions discovered in connection with house property and other premises which come under the control of the Department, have been promptly dealt with.

The necessity for the maintenance of a thorough system of inspection of sanitary works in progress is exemplified by the number of defects which are constantly discovered as the result of examinations made. Alterations and amendments, which are not infrequently required, can also be made with the minimum amount of trouble or expense, if dealt with before the work has advanced.

The usual practice has been continued of communicating with the responsible party immediately upon discovery of any sanitary defect and supplying detailed particulars of the work necessary to satisfactorily remedy the same. The particulars are frequently amplified by verbal advice. It is very gratifying to again report that in no case has it been found necessary to resort to legal proceedings against any property owner for non-compliance with sanitary notices. The good effect of co-operation with owners as against arbitrary legal action is shown by the large amount of work which has been executed, especially in connection with working-class houses, during the year. Friendly discussions create a feeling of confidence between property owners and the Council, and usually lead to the removal of difficulties and misunderstandings.

In accordance with the instructions of your Medical Officer of Health, the necessary enquiries have been made in respect of each case of infectious disease, and his directions have been promptly carried out in respect of the disinfection of premises.

Detailed information of the work carried out by your Inspector is appended as follows :

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA

Inspections

The total number of inspections and re-inspections made in regard to each section of work is recorded in the appended table.

Houses inspected under P.H.A. or H. Acts	...	...	360
Re-inspections and inspections of works in progress	...	...	697
Houses inspected under Rent and Mortgage Res. Act.	...	...	5
Special Visits—Advisory Interviews, etc.	...	...	247
Inspections of caravans and temporary buildings	...	...	53
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	408
Inspections of Cottagers premises (P.H. Meat Regulations)			14

Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Outworkers premises	...	...	...	...	130
Inspection of Bakehouses, Butchers, Fish fryers premises, Ice Cream premises, Water samples and food shops	...	...	...	...	228
Inspections of Milkshops, cowsheds and Dairies	...				48
Premises other than dwelling-houses inspected under P.H. Acts	...	...	...	...	187
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	227
Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous, Schools, etc.	...	...	...	...	14
Total number of inspections and re-inspections					2646

Complaints

One hundred and eighty-six complaints were received with reference to the following matters :

Insanitary conditions of houses	...	...	...	23
Insanitary conditions of yards	...	...	...	6
Blocked or defective drains	...	...	...	15
Overflowing cesspools	...	...	...	59
Accumulation of refuse or defective dustbins	...	...	...	16
Insufficient water supplies	...	...	...	6
Nuisance from keeping of animals	...	...	...	8
Nuisance from prevalence of rats	...	...	...	11
Nuisance from prevalence of mosquitos	...	...	...	6
Nuisance from verminous infestation	...	...	...	17
Nuisance from foul ponds and ditches	...	...	...	5
Nuisance from caravan dwellers and campers	...	...	...	10
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	4

These were promptly investigated and in those cases in which the Council had power to interfere, the necessary steps were immediately taken up to remove the cause of complaint.

Notices Served

Informal Notices (Written)	...	...	...	309
Statutory Notices : Public Health Act, 1875, Section 36				9
do.	do.		do.	62
do.	do.		do.	94
do.	Housing Act, 1930		do.	17
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	...		...	1788
Number of defects or nuisances remedied	...		...	1473
Number of defects or nuisances outstanding or in hand at end of year	...	...	...	315

Summary of Sanitary Improvements and Remedial Works carried out during 1935.

Number of houses and premises drained or redrained				16
Drains cleansed from obstruction or repaired	...		...	24
New manholes provided to existing drains	...		...	18
New gully traps fixed	...	...	...	29
New gully curbs provided or repaired	...		...	27
Fresh Air Inlets provided or repaired	...		...	12
Soil pipes and ventilating shafts provided or repaired	...		...	19
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	16
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	59
New W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	28
W.C.s unstopped, cleansed or repaired	...		...	57

New flushing cisterns fitted to W.C.s	...	...	33
Existing flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	42
New W.C. apartments provided	...	...	8
Privies abolished	...	...	2
Pail closets abolished	...	...	4
Yards paved or existing yard paving repaired	...	...	18
Dustbins provided	...	...	139
Roofs reconstructed	...	...	7
Roofs repaired	...	...	58
Rain water pipes and /or eaves guttering renewed or repaired	...	...	37
Damp walls remedied (a) Provision of damp proof course			16
(b) Walls repointed, repaired or renewed	...		12
Ventilation under floors provided	...	...	8
Floors or rooms relaid or repaired	...	...	8
Rooms cleansed distempered or repapered	...	...	418
Windows repaired or made to open	...	...	25
Lighting and ventilation of rooms improved	...	...	10
Staircases repaired and/or lighted	...	...	7
Doors provided or repaired	...	...	37
Stove ranges and copper provided or repaired		...	35
Water supplies improved	...	...	58
New sinks provided	...	...	8
Waste pipes repaired, trapped or unstopped	...	...	18
New larder accommodation provided	...	...	15
Nuisance from overcrowding abated	...	...	27
Nuisance from keeping of animals abated	...	...	8
Ditches cleansed and/or piped	...	...	5
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	19
Camping sites cleansed	...	...	4

Caravans and sheds demolished	...	...	...	6
Houses demolished	...	...	...	41
Factory and workshop contraventions remedied			...	8
Slaughterhouse contraventions remedied			...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	25

Infectious Disease and Disinfection

28 rooms were fumigated and the walls of the rooms were stripped and cleansed, after notifiable infectious diseases, under the direction of your Medical Officer of Health.

In addition 78 rooms at 31 houses were fumigated and sprayed with vermicide owing to their verminous condition.

House Drainage and Closet Accommodation

During the year 16 premises in the district were provided with a proper system of drainage and the existing drains at 24 other premises were properly repaired or amended.

All new drains were subjected to a “water test” before and after the ground had been filled in.

2 privies and 4 pail closets were abolished during the year and replaced by water closets. In 16 instances the drainage of existing houses was connected with the Council’s sewers.

Rent and Mortgage Interest Resriction Acts 1920, 1933

During the year several communications were received from tenants who were dissatisfied with the conditions of the houses in their occupation. The houses were inspected and as the tenants wished to secure the execution of certain repairs and

not merely to obtain certificates under the Acts, schedules of the work required to put the premises into a reasonable state of repair were sent to the owners of the property. In all cases the needful works were carried out with recourse to statutory action.

Council Houses

The Council Housing Estates again received full attention. In the early part of the year a systematic house-to-house survey was made of all the Council houses in the Ashford Common and Shepperton area. As a direct result of these inspections the following works of repair were carried out.

Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	255
New W.C. basins fixed	...	...	...	...	9
Washing coppers rebuilt	...	...	...	...	28
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	67

Complaints were promptly investigated and where necessary any remedial works were carried out under the supervision of your Surveyor.

In 13 instances Council houses were found to be infested with vermin; necessary action was taken and such nuisances were quickly abated. It is now the practice of the Public Health Department to fumigate the bedrooms of Council houses as they become vacant, also the household effects of the ingoing tenant.

Investigations of the living conditions of all applicants for Council houses living within the Urban District have been carried out and revised lists from time to time submitted to the Housing Committee of families who have a reasonable claim to a Council house on Health grounds. During the year 19 families were allocated Council houses for the abatement of nuisance from overcrowding.

House to House Inspections

The Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932, require the Local Authority to make provisions for a thorough inspection to be carried out, from time to time, of the dwelling-houses in their District. The chief object of the inspections is to ascertain the state of the houses in relation to the following matters, namely :

- (1) The adequacy and accessibility of the water supply;
- (2) The arrangements for preventing the contamination of the water supply;
- (3) The adequacy and accessibility of sanitary accommodation or of other conveniences;
- (4) Drainage;
- (5) The condition of the house in regard to light, the free circulation of air, dampness, and cleanliness;
- (6) The paving, drainage, and sanitary condition of any courtyard or passage, or outhouses, belonging to or occupied with the house;
- (7) The arrangements for the deposit of refuse or ashes;
- (8) The existence of any room which would by virtue of subsection (1) of section 18 of the Act of 1925 be unfit for human habitation;
- (9) Any defects in other matters which may tend to render the house in any respect unfit for human habitation :
- (10) The extent to which by reason of disrepair or sanitary defects, as defined in section 62 of the Housing Act, 1930, the house falls short of the provision of any Byelaws in operation in the District or of the general standard of housing accommodation for the working classes in the district.

In compliance with the above Regulations, 39 houses in areas scheduled to be dealt with, were inspected during the year. In addition under this heading 42 houses were inspected on

complaint, 28 following an occurrence of infectious disease, 5 under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage (Restriction) Acts, and 246 Council Houses.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901

The Factories, Workshops or Workplaces on the Register number 66. The provisions of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, which your Council has to administer, relate chiefly to the following matters :

1. (a) Cleanliness.
(b) Air Space.
(c) Ventilation.
(d) Drainage.
(e) Provisions of Sanitary Conveniences for both sexes.

2. The provision of means of escape in case of fire in Factories and Workshops in which more than 40 persons are employed.

3. Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses.

4. Homework.

The usual periodical visits have been maintained and the sanitary defects discovered were properly remedied by the persons responsible.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

The inspection and supervision of food supplies received a large amount of attention.

Milk Supply

There are 8 cowkeepers on the register, of whom 4 are also dairymen, and 4 dairymen who are not cowkeepers.

There are also 8 dairymen on the register who supply milk in the District but whose place of business is outside the district. There is no licensed graded milk producer in the District but two retailers are licensed to sell "Certified" Milk, 3 Grade A. T.T. Milk and 5 Pasteurised Milk.

The Veterinary inspection of cows kept in the District is undertaken by the Middlesex County Council.

Slaughterhouses and Meat

There are 4 slaughterhouses in the district, the occupier of each being licensed by the Council for a period of one year.

The slaughterhouses are kept under constant observation, and the necessary steps have been taken to secure proper compliance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 and your Council's Byelaws, especially in regard to cleanliness, removal of offal, limewashing, etc.

Visits to these premises, as hitherto, have been as far as possible at the time of slaughter, so that the carcasses and viscera could be properly examined and any abnormal conditions more easily detected.

The number of visits to slaughterhouses was 408. In addition 14 visits were made to Cottagers' premises for the purpose of Meat Inspection. Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, 9 persons have been licenced to slaughter certain animals in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards.

The total number of carcasses inspected after slaughter during the year is as follows :

Beasts 17; calves 199; sheep 158; pigs 3,593. Total 3,967.

The 17 butchers' shops have been inspected and observation kept upon the vehicles used for the conveyance of meat. Generally the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations have been observed. In no instance was it necessary to take formal action in dealing with contraventions.

The following diseased and/or unsound meat and other foods were detected, surrendered and destroyed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Bovines

- 1 carcase and offal.
- 1 set lungs.

Veal

- 1 carcase and offal.

Swine

- 4 carcasses and offal.
- 35 heads.
- 139 miscellaneous organs.

CONDITIONS OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Bovines

- 3 miscellaneous organs.

Veal

- 1 carcase and offal.

Swine

- 2 carcasses and offal.
- 29 miscellaneous organs.

Sheep

- 12 miscellaneous organs.

Other Foods

- 12 stones dog fish.
- 10 cwts. potatoes.
- 1 case plums.

Other Food Premises

Other premises where food is prepared, have been regularly inspected and 228 visits have been made for this purpose. In no case has any food purveyor raised any objection to his premises and goods being inspected and it gives me pleasure to record the fact that several tradesmen have shown a desire to co-operate with the department, by sending for me when they have been in possession of articles of food which they considered were in a doubtful condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 9 bakehouses in use in the district, 3 of which are factory bakehouses. 23 visits were made to these premises and in two instances it was necessary to call the occupiers' attention to breaches of the special clauses of the Factory and Workshop Acts which regulate the premises. During the year a disused bakehouse was reconditioned and converted into a dairy.

ICE CREAM PREMISES.

The premises where ice-cream was sold were visited during the summer months. In only three instances was this commodity made on the premises.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are three premises in the district where the business of fish frying is carried on. Regular inspections have been made to ensure that cleansing and limewashing are carried out as required, and that care is taken to prevent offensive odours arising. On the whole the trade is conducted satisfactorily.

SHOPS ACTS.

In the administration of the Shops Acts, 204 visits and inspections were made during the year.

A number of minor infringements have been observed, but in each case a word of warning has been sufficient to ensure full compliance.

GAME LICENCES.

Four applications were received under Section 27 of the Local Government Act 1894 from tradesmen in the District for licences to deal in game.

A licence was granted in each case.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Complaints of the presence of rats and mice were referred to the Middlesex County Council who are the authority under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. In several instances where it was suspected that the invasion was due to insanitary conditions inspection were made, and defects found were dealt with.

RIVERS, STREAMS, PONDS AND DITCHES.

Under the supervision of your Medical Officer of Health, several ponds, stagnant pools, and ditches, were sprayed with oil or special solution to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

TENTS, VANS, AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES.

These premises again received attention and the Council's byelaws regarding them enforced.

In several instances vans occupied by persons of the nomad type were brought into the district, but only in the case of "The Greyhound" field was any attempt made to form a colony.

Difficulty has been experienced in dealing with the week-end camper. The prevention of abuses and the control of these temporary camps, in the absence of proper conveniences is a serious problem, and almost an impossible task. Present day legislation unfortunately does not give sufficient powers to deal with this type of camp.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year proceedings were instituted in the High Court for a declaration that a certain structure erected without the consent of the Local Authority was a temporary building within the meaning of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. The Court held that the structure was a temporary building, that the local authority were entitled to pull the same down and also recover against the owner their costs.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I desire to say that I appreciate the encouragement and support given me by the Chairman and members of the Health and Sanitation Committee, and again to acknowledge the kind co-operation of Dr. A. Urquhart, Medical Officer of Health, and Officers of other departments.

I also wish to thank Mrs. O. W. Lukyn for the invaluable help and assistance given throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

T. J. MOORE,

Sanitary Inspector.

